The overall exemptions for this document are (b)(1) and (b)(3).

~~Top Secret~~

~~No Foreign Dissem~~

[redacted]

DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

WEEKLY REVIEW

~~Top Secret~~

[redacted]

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: SEP 2000

517

15 May 1970

SC No. 00760/70

Caribbean Governments Take Another Look at Black Power

In the aftermath of the Trinidad disorders last month, a majority of the Caribbean governments are reassessing their public positions toward Black Power and are adopting more stringent controls over its proponents.

Many of the Caribbean leaders are concerned that events similar to those in Trinidad could disrupt the peace and prosperity of their states if they permit militants to agitate and preach racial violence. There is general agreement that Trinidad's Prime Minister Williams waited too long before trying to exercise control over Black Power elements whose demonstrations and subsequent arrest led to the recent unrest. As a result, the governments appear to be less reluctant to limit the activities of Black Power elements and more ready to risk political attack from radicals in the interest of appealing instead to broader political sentiment and preserving public safety. Some governments also seem to be more concerned about the potential loss of tourist revenues than the political risk involved in confronting the militants.

[redacted]

[redacted]

In Barbados, the site for the second Regional Black Power Conference scheduled for 9 to 12 July, Prime Minister Barrow has proposed legislation that would make it a criminal offense to preach violence or racial hatred. He also intends to prevent nonnationals from participating in the country's political activity, requiring official clearance of all speakers and topics before permission to hold a meeting is granted. Barrow is apparently determined to maintain the position that militants should not be banned from Barbados but controlled after they get there. Last week Stokely Carmichael was detained at the airport, then permitted to stay overnight, but was not allowed to speak at a political rally in his honor.

Many other Caribbean leaders are also reluctant to give in to the demands of the radicals. Jamaican Prime Minister Shearer has said that he will deal harshly and rapidly with any incipient anarchistic development. Recently, some of the smaller islands have manifested their concern by banning travel of the more prominent Black Power spokesmen.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: SEP 2000

The government of Trinidad apparently intends to make a public example of the leaders of last month's Black Power unrest and army mutiny. Nine civilians, including the head of one of the country's most important trade unions as well as the leader of the local Black Power movement, will be charged with sedition. According to government officials, some of the military defendants may receive death sentences for their part in the disorders.

* * *

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: SEP 2000